Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 //085 W

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O 201805Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1968
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL RABAT 2778

MAPUTO FOR DELEGATION

VIENNA FOR VICE PRESIDENT DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR MO US SUBJECT: GOM REACTION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH POLISARIO REP.

REF: (A) RABAT 2726, (B) MAPUTO 0610, (C) STATE 115223

1. DRAWING ON REFTEL (B) AND ADVANCE PRESS GUIDANCE GIVEN IN TELECON WITH NEA CONSONANT WITH REFTEL (C), I INFORMED ACTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER CHERKAOUI AND INFORMATION MINISTER TAIBI BENHIMA WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED, ADDING THAT AFTER CHECKING WITH WASHINGTON, I COULD CONFIRM THAT CHANCE MEETING HAD "NO POLICY SIGNIFICANCE WHATSOEVER". BENHIMA, WHO WAS BEING PRESSED BY KING HASSAN FOR EXPLANATION OF WHY FOR FIRST TIME A USG OFFICIAL HAD MET WITH POLISARIO CONFIDENTIAL

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REPRESENTATIVE, SAID HE WOULD REPORT MY COMMENTS TO KING. HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT POLISARIO, ALGERIANS AND OTHERS MIGHT USE UPI DESPATCH, AND HOPED WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO STATE PUBLICLY THIS CHANCE MEETING HAD NO IMPLICATION OF RECOGNITION. I SAID AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD ALREADY DONE THIS WITH US PRESS IN MAPUTO, AND THAT WASHINGTON SPOKESMEN

WERE READY TO DO LIKEWISE ON IF-ASKED BASIS. I ALSO SUGGESTED TO BENHIMA AND CHERKAOUI THAT IT IN GOM INTEREST NOT TO EXAGGERATE OR PLAY UP INCIDENT WHICH COULD VERY WELL PASS WITH NO PRESS INTEREST.

3. KNOWING THE METICULOUS CARE WE EXERCISE IN OUR CONTACTS WITH SUCH CONTROVERSIAL ORGANIZATION AS THE PLO, THE GOM CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT APPEARS TO THEM AT BEST CONFUSION AND AT WORST THE BEGINNING OF A MODIFICATION OF OUR POLICY ON THE SAHARA QUESTION. ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, MO, US, SS, POLISARIO, (YOUNG, ANDREW)

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